The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) seeks to provide the widest measure of mutual legal assistance in criminal such as locating and identifying persons, serving documents, obtaining voluntary statements, taking of evidence, executing requests for search and seizure etc. The MLAT will help to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the prevention and suppression of crime through cooperation in investigation and prosecution of criminal matters.

The Government is actively in disseminating the contents of the CECA to the private sector and chambers of commerce so that they may take advantage of the opportunities for business opened up by the agreement. Our security agencies are in contact with their counterparts in Singapore to operationalize the provisions of the MLAT for mutual benefit.

Indian Children as Camel Jokeys in UAE

1940. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the seven countries sending under-aged children to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as Camel Jokeys, a practice that is banned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that to avert abuses, the UAE has made it compulsory for children from these countries to carry separate passports;

(c) whether UAE have repatriated some of our children sent there for this illegal trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, with action plan of Government to effectively control this inhuman practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In recent years no Indian child has been known to have gone to the UAE to be a camel jockey.

(b) Yes. The UAE Government had taken a decision in March 2005 that effective from September 2005 children including infants entering into UAE, except those of diplomats, should have separate passports.

(c) and (d) Yes. A case of an 11-year old child who accompanied his father to UAE for being used as a camel jockey by his sponsor, had come

to the notice of the Indian Mission in May, 1997. After the intervention of the Mission, the boy was repatriated. Thereafter, no such case has come to our notice.

Exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh

1941. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian enclaves situated in Bangladesh and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether it is a fact that Governments of both the countries have agreed to exchange the enclaves;

(c) if so, the number of enclaves exchanged, so far;

(d) what steps are being taken to complete the exchange; and

(e) the reasons for not completion of exchange work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India.

(b) Yes Sir, both the Governments have agreed to the exchange of enclaves in the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) signed in 1974.

(c) Exchange of enclaves has not yet started.

(d) and (e) At the Foreign Secretary-level talks in December, 2000, it was decided to set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups, to address the pending matters relating to the Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The Groups were constituted in June 2001. Two meetings of the Groups took place on 2-4th July 2001 in Dhaka and 26-27th March 2002 in New Delhi. We requested for a joint survey of the enclaves since the Land Boundary Agreement envisages that the people in the areas to be transferred will be given a choice of citizenship. A joint survey to identify the residents of these enclaves who may exercise this choice would facilitate the orderly exchange of enclaves. The Bangladesh position was that all necessary procedures for the exchange of enclaves had been completed in accordance with the Land Boundary Agreement and that there was no constitutional or legal barrier to the exchange. The Bangladesh side considered conducting